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2. Interchange of university teachers; conditions of interchange.

3. Interuniversity arrangements for post-graduate and research students.

4. Question of division of work and specialization among universities.

5. The establishment of a central university bureau; its constitution and functions.

II. Universities in their constitutional aspects and in their relation to teachers, graduates and students:

1. The relation of universities to technical and professional education and to education for the public services.

2. Provision of courses of study and examinations for other than degree students, including university extension and tutorial class work, and specialized courses both of a general and technical character for students engaged in professional, commercial and industrial pursuits.

3. The representation of teachers and graduates on the governing body of a university.

4. Action of universities in relation to the after-careers of their students.

5. The position of women in universities.

6. The problem of universities in the East in regard to their influence on character and moral ideals.

7. Residential facilities, including colleges and hostels.

THE "Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths," published by the authority of the registrar-general and abstracted in the *London Times*, shows a remarkable decline in the "natural increase" in population in England and Wales by excess of births over deaths. During the three months there were only 81,645 more births than deaths as compared with 123,300, 124,054 and 123,022 in the third quarter of 1908, 1909 and 1910, respectively. The births registered in the third quarter of 1911 numbered 222,601 and were in the proportion of 24.4 annually per 1,000 of the population, which is 2.9 per 1,000 below the mean birth-rate in the ten preceding third quarters, and it is the lowest birth-rate recorded in any third quarter since the establishment of civil registration. In registration counties with populations exceeding 100,000, the lowest birth-rates during the quarter were 18.4 in Sussex, 20.0 in Northamptonshire, 20.1 in Berkshire, 20.2

in Devon, Somerset and Carnarvonshire. The highest rates were 26.7 in Northumberland, 26.8 in Carmarthenshire, 27.3 in Nottinghamshire, 27.7 in Staffordshire, 29.9 in Monmouthshire, 30.9 in Durham and 31.7 in Glamorganshire. In the 77 great towns the birth-rate averaged 25.5 per 1,000, ranging from 15.8 in Bournemouth, 16.0 in Hastings, 17.9 in Horneysey, 18.3 in Halifax, 18.5 in Huddersfield and 18.6 in Bradford, to 30.1 in Bootle, 31.3 in Stoke-on-Trent, 32.7 in Merthyr Tydfil, 34.7 in St. Helens and 35.3 in Rhondda. In the 136 smaller towns the mean birth-rate was 23.6 per 1,000, and in the remainder of England and Wales, excluding the 213 chief towns, it was also 23.6. The deaths registered in England and Wales last quarter numbered 140,956, and were in the proportion of 15.5 annually per 1,000 persons living; this rate is 1.7 per 1,000 above the mean rate in the ten preceding third quarters. In registration counties with populations exceeding 100,000, the death-rates ranged from 11.4 in Wiltshire, 11.7 in Somerset, 11.8 in Berkshire and Hertfordshire, 11.9 in Shropshire and 12.1 in Buckinghamshire, to 16.7 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 17.5 in Glamorganshire, 17.6 in the East Riding of Yorkshire, 18.0 in Staffordshire, 18.5 in Lancashire and 18.6 in Durham. The population of the United Kingdom in the middle of 1911 is estimated at 45,311,078 persons; that of England and Wales at 36,168,750, that of Scotland at 4,766,860 and that of Ireland at 4,375,468. These estimates are based upon the numbers enumerated at the censuses of 1901 and 1911. In the United Kingdom 277,655 births and 173,105 deaths were registered in the three months ended September 30, 1911. The natural increase of population was, therefore, 104,550. The official vital statistics of France for the first six months of 1911 give a total of 385,999 birth and 404,278 deaths, being an excess of deaths of 18,279.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At a meeting of the lumbermen of the North Idaho Forestry Association held in

Spokane on December 16 the members voted unanimously to pro-rate their timber holdings in the state of Idaho to the extent of \$58,000 for the purpose of erecting a forestry building at the University of Idaho.

At its meeting on December 15 the board of regents of the University of Michigan took an important step with reference to graduate studies. Hitherto this work has been in charge of a subcommittee of the literary faculty. The recent action (1) founds a university graduate department; (2) provides for the appointment of a dean as chief executive; (3) places the direction of all matters affecting graduate studies in the hands of an executive board of seven, together with the president and dean *ex officio*. A mixed committee, drawn partly from the administration and partly from the senate, submitted the plan as adopted, after prolonged consideration. This committee was as follows: the President; Regents Sawyer, Beal and Hubbard; Dean V. C. Vaughan, of the medical faculty; Dean John O. Reed, of the literary faculty; Professor R. M. Wenley, of the department of philosophy; Professor F. N. Scott, chairman of the present graduate council, and Professor Alexander Ziwet, of the engineering faculty.

BUILDINGS costing nearly \$1,000,000 are either being constructed or will be started at the University of Wisconsin before the next academic year opens. Nine new structures will be completed within the next twelve months on various parts of the university grounds. The new buildings and their cost will be as follows:

Biology hall	\$200,000
Wing to library	165,000
Home economics building	115,000
Model high school	150,000
Women's dormitory	150,000
Agricultural chemistry	90,000
Chemistry building wing	76,000
Horticultural building	57,000
Gymnasium annex	15,000
Total	\$998,000

The horticultural building is now almost completed and will be ready for classes at the

opening of the second semester in February. The annex to the gymnasium will be completed about February 1. The big new biology hall, which will give the department of biology one of the finest homes at any American university, will not be completed before the end of the present school year. Last week ground was broken for three of the new buildings—the women's dormitory, the agricultural chemistry building and the new home economics building, and work will be rushed on all three of these buildings so that they may be ready for occupancy at the opening of the academic year next fall. The basements of both the wing to the chemistry building and that to the library are completed, but further work will not be resumed on them until spring. It is also understood that work on the new model high school, to be built for the use of the students at the university preparing to be teachers, will not be started until spring. This building is to be constructed on University Avenue, nearly opposite the United States Forest Products Laboratory.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that a decree has been promulgated for the improvement of the scientific and clinical education in the French medical schools. Its main features are as follows: (1) the duration of the medical course is increased from four to five years; (2) practical work in physiology and medical physics and chemistry and bacteriology is to be compulsory; (3) the hospital *stage* will be coextensive with the medical course and will include the various services; (4) to decrease the effect of chance in examination, each student will have a record book in which will be noted the credits he has obtained in laboratory and chemical work and previous examinations.

EDWARD D. SISSON, recently head of the department of education at the University of Washington, has been appointed professor of education in the newly established Reed College, at Portland, Ore.

MR. FLETCHER MCFARLAND has been appointed instructor in physiology at the University of Minnesota.